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SENATE BILL 425

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; CREATING A YOUTH COUNCIL WITHIN THE
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT; ENACTING THE YOUTH
COUNCIL ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. -- This act may be cited as the
"Youth Council Act".

Section 2. PURPOSE. -- The purpose of the Youth Council Act
is to encourage young people throughout New Mexico to consider
and discuss the problems they face and to develop possible
solutions for presentation to the governor, lieutenant governor
and legislature.

Section 3. YOUTH COUNCIL CREATED-- ORGANIZATION--
FUNCTIONS-- DEFINITION. --

A. The "youth council" is created in the children,

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1 youth and families department.

2 B. The council shall consist of at least one youth,
3 aged twelve to nineteen, from each New Mexico legislative
4 district to be selected by county child welfare advocates and
5 officials and school guidance counselors in consultation with
6 the legislators from whose district the youth is being
7 selected.

8 C. The council shall meet at least four times a
9 year for the purpose of discussing the problems faced by New
10 Mexico youth and to recommend possible solutions to these
11 problems to be presented to the governor, lieutenant governor
12 and legislature.

13 D. The council shall issue an annual report that
14 summarizes the activities and findings of the council. The
15 report shall be submitted to the legislature and the executive
16 no later than November 15 of each year.

17 E. As used in the Youth Council Act, "council"
18 means the youth council.

19 Section 4. YOUTH COUNCIL COORDINATOR-- POSITION CREATED--
20 DUTIES.--

21 A. The position of "youth council coordinator" is
22 created in the office of the secretary of children, youth and
23 families to organize, administer and coordinate youth council
24 activities.

25 B. The coordinator shall:

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(1) select, in consultation with the appropriate legislators, county child welfare advocates and officials and school guidance counselors, a diverse cross section of youths for the council from throughout the state;

(2) organize four council meetings a year, four of which will include the lieutenant governor and two of which will include the governor;

(3) assist the council in preparing an annual report on its activities and findings; and

(4) act as a liaison between the council and any interagency coordinating group consisting of certain cabinet secretaries if that entity is established by executive order.